

**Embassy of the United States of America
Khartoum, Sudan**



August 5, 2009

**Remarks of Chargé d’Affaires Robert E. Whitehead
U.S. Embassy – Khartoum, Sudan
on the
NDI Implementation Protocol Signing
National Elections Commission
Wednesday, 5 August 2009 at 2:00 PM**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good morning. It is an honor to be here today for the signing of a \$21 million Implementation Protocol to support voter education and domestic observation programs for national elections in Sudan. I thank His Excellency, the Minister of International Cooperation, Dr. El Tijani Salih Fidail; Deputy Chairman of the National Elections Commission, Professor Abdullah Abdullah; our USAID/Sudan Mission Director, William Hammink; and the Country Director for the National Democratic Institute, Mr. Hatem Bamehriz, for taking part in this important event.

As part of the U.S. Government’s full support for implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), we are pleased to sign a protocol that will help voters across the country participate more knowledgeably in the electoral process, for the scheduled April 2010 national elections. The U.S. Government views these elections as a key milestone in CPA implementation.

With this program, the U.S. Government, through our Agency for International Development (USAID), will help educate voters across Sudan on how to actively participate in the elections. In full collaboration with the Sudanese, we will also assist with proficient and effective domestic observations of the elections to increase confidence in this historic process.

This \$21 million program is only one part of the U.S. Government’s substantial elections assistance. USAID is also providing advisors and material support to the National Elections Commission and state-level high committees, training for political parties, and additional funding for international observation.

By signing this protocol, the U.S. Government confirms its ongoing commitment to help Sudan establish a just and durable peace for its people.

Thank you.

For further information, please contact the U.S.
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numbers: 0183-774-700/1/2/3/4

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بالسفارة الأمريكية بالخرطوم على الهواتف:
0183-774-700/1/2/3/4